Defence projects running behind schedule

*127. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects including the joint venture projects of the Ministry its PSUs and subordinate offices costing over Rs. 20 crore or more running behind schedule;

(b) the reasons for the delay and the total estimated loss to the exchequer; and

(c) the changes proposed in these projects to complete them expeditiously and to save expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection of jobs of displaced persons due to global economic melt down

*128. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI M. RAMA JOIS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many workers in the country have lost their jobs due to the recent global economic melt down;

(b) the Ministry's estimation about the job losses in the country in the current year because of this; and

(c) the steps contemplated to protect jobs and help the displaced workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. However, with a view to assess impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors presumed to be adversely affected by the slowdown during the period October, 2008 — January, 2009, Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out a survey in important sectors, *viz.* Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about 5.89 lakh workers have lost their jobs during October, 2008 — January, 2009. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

(c) Government is concerned about the impact of global financial crises on the Indian economy and several measures — financial and fiscal — have been initiated to instill confidence in the economy, spur growth and overcome crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and two economic packages by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts. These measures will prevent large scale Job losses. In order to provide a social safety net, with effect